



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION

JDAI



Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

For over 25 years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has been working to create a system that locks up fewer youth and relies on more proven, family-focused interventions that create opportunities for positive youth development. Using a model rooted in eight core strategies, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) proves effective in helping participating jurisdictions create alternative programs for juvenile offenders, thus safely reducing their detention populations.

South Carolina is now the 40th state to launch JDAI, joining 39 others that have become JDAI State-Scale sites. The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is serving as the Lead Agency in building on the legacy to reduce overreliance on detention and improve outcomes for the youth in the state.



This Initiative directly aligns with DJJ’s mission of protecting the public and reclaiming juveniles by:

- eliminating inappropriate/unnecessary use of detention
- Minimizing failure to appear and incidences of delinquent behavior
- Redirecting public finances to more effective reform strategies
- Reducing racial/ethnic/gender/geographical/offense disparities and advancing equity
- Improving conditions in secure detention facilities

EIGHT CORE STRATEGIES

JDAI is a system-wide change in philosophy, practice and policy which focuses on the eight core strategies:

- COLLABORATION
- DATA DRIVEN DECISION MAKING
- ELIMINATING DISPARITIES
- OBJECTIVE ADMISSIONS SCREENING
- ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION
- CASE PROCESSING
- SPECIAL DETENTION POPULATIONS
- CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

THE CHOSEN MODEL

The definition of JDAI has expanded to include system improvement efforts for the juvenile justice continuum, from the front door through out-of-home placements.

JDAI is the chosen model to align the State’s reform agenda and make the S.C. Juvenile Justice system the best it can be for the State’s most vulnerable population.

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